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PSC 540.01: Seminar in American Politics

Christopher P. Muste

University of Montana - Missoula, christopher.muste@umontana.edu

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SEMINAR IN AMERICAN POLITICS- PSC 540

Spring 2008

Thursday 9:40 - 12:00, 334 LA

Professor Christopher Muste

Office: 416 Liberal Arts

Office Hours: Monday 4-5, Wednesday 4-6, and by appointment

Political Science Department - 350 Liberal Arts; phone 243-5202

Phone: 243-4829

e-mail: christopher.muste@umontana.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad overview of research on American politics and government for graduate students, and serves as partial preparation for the MA field exam in American Politics. The course will use both classic and contemporary readings to explore the major topics in American politics research. These readings will explore fundamental themes such as power and representation using a variety of methodological approaches, including institutional, behavioral, and formal. At the end of the course students should be familiar with the major questions and debates in American politics, the main modes of research utilized to address those problems, and the substantive findings of the research.

READINGS

The reading load for this course is somewhat heavy. Each week there will be a set of required readings that must be done prior to class, and a set of supplemental readings that are not required but are strongly recommended to broaden your understanding of American politics and to help you prepare for the American politics field exam. Most readings will be available in traditional paper course reserves and on electronic reserves (ERES) at the Mansfield Library, and are listed individually in the "Course Topics and Readings" section below. There will also be some required books, that will be available at the UM Bookstore prior to the weeks in which they are due. Depending on the progress of course, I may change some of the readings to reflect the interests of students and political events. The ERES password for this course is

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES

Students are expected to do all the readings and be prepared to discuss them each week. Being prepared will contribute to your understanding of the material and success in the course. Participation in class discussions will be 10% of the course grade.

For seven of the weeks' readings, students must write a two- to three-page (single spaced) analysis of the readings. This analysis should briefly describe the main points of the readings you choose, but go beyond description to critically analyze the arguments, evidence, and/or methodologies of the readings; for example, you might analyze how a common theme or problem is addressed by each of the readings, or do an intensive comparison of two or more of the readings. These analyses must be typed and turned in by 8 ?? p.m. the day before class meets (Wednesday), to me at christopher.muste@umontana.edu and to the rest of the class. These analyses will provide the basis for our class discussion. Each paper is worth 5% of the course grade, for a total of 35%.

All students must write on the first week's readings, and at the second class meeting we will allocate the readings to ensure that there will be at least two student analyses for each week.

The other requirement for this course is a 20-25 page research paper. The draft of the paper will be worth 15% of the course grade, and the final paper worth 40%.

GRADES: Grades will be calculated according to the following percentages:

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89.9	C+ = 77-79.9	D+ = 67-69.9	below 60=F
A- = 90-92.9	B = 83-86.9	C = 73-76.9	D = 63-66.9	
	B- = 80-82.9	C- = 70-72.9	D- = 60-62.9	

Participation in discussion	10%
Reading Analyses	35%
Paper Draft	15%
Research Paper	40% of course grade

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

* All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://ordway.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/index.cfm/name/StudentConductCode>

* The University of Montana Student Conduct Code prohibits plagiarism, which is "representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own." This is a serious academic violation that can result in penalties up to suspension or expulsion from the University. **I take academic honesty very seriously, and will do my utmost to prevent, uncover, and penalize any form of cheating in this course.** See the "Plagiarism Warning" on pp. 23-24 in the *University of Montana 2007-2008 Catalog*, and the Student Conduct Code on the UM website listed above. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about academic honesty.

CLASS COURTESY:

In order to have a pleasant and effective learning environment in class, we need to observe a few basic courtesies. This is a small campus, so it is possible to get to the classroom on time from all other campus buildings; arriving late or leaving early disrupts the class and disturbs other students and the instructor. Please turn off all cell phones before class begins. If you have a question or comment about the material, please raise your hand so we can all discuss it, instead of talking to your neighbor. We'll all benefit if we just keep in mind the reason we're in the room together.

DROP POLICY AND INCOMPLETES:

You can drop on Cyberbear until February 11, and from then until March 4 using a drop slip signed by me. After March 4, you must go through the more formal and difficult "late drop" petition process. I will sign late drop petitions for only one week after the midterm exam grades are posted, and after that only under extraordinary circumstances, as outlined on p. 21 of the *UM 2007-2008 Catalog*.

Incompletes will only be permitted when all the conditions set forth in the official University policy are met – the policy is on p. 23 of the *University of Montana 2007-2008 Catalog*.

DSS STUDENTS:

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations on exams, papers, or other course requirements should contact me as soon as possible, and must contact DSS in order to arrange for and provide me with a letter of approval for accommodations. DSS is in Lommasson Center 154.

EMAIL AND BLACKBOARD

In order to access your grades and other important course information, make sure you can sign into the Blackboard website for this course, <http://umonline.umt.edu/StudentInfo/welcome.htm>

Also check your official UM email account frequently, or go into Cyberbear to have your official UM email forwarded to your preferred email account.

COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

January 24

First Class Meeting - Syllabus and Introduction

January 31

Theories, Designs, and Approaches

Federalist Papers #10, 39, 49, 51, 54, 58, 63, and 68. At: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>

Dahl, Robert. 1957. "Polyarchal Democracy" and "American Hybrid," chapters 3 and 5 in *A Preface to Democratic Theory*.

Schattschneider, E.E. "The Contagiousness of Conflict" and "The Scope and Bias of the Pressure System," chapters 1 and 2 in *The Semi-Sovereign People*.

Kernell and Jacobson, "The Logic of American Politics," Chapter 1 in *The Logic of American Politics*.

Recommended Reading:

de Tocqueville, Alexis. *Democracy in America*, Volume 1, chapters 4, 9, 15-17; Vol. 2, Book 2 chapters 1-8.

Huntington, Samuel. 1982. *American Politics: The Promise of Disharmony*, chapters 1 and 9.

Bachrach, Peter, and Morton Baratz. 1962. "Two Faces of Power," *American Political Science Review* 56: 947-52.

February 7

Political Parties

Aldrich, John H. 1995. *Why Parties? The Origin and Transformation of Political Parties in America*, chapters 1, 2, & 6.

Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, chapters 2 and 8.

Wattenberg, Martin P. 1991. *The Rise of Candidate-Centered Politics: Presidential Elections in the 1980s*, chapters 2 and 3.

Sundquist, James L. 1983. *Dynamics of the Party System: Alignment and Realignment of Political Parties in the United States*, chapters 1-3 (chapter 18 recommended)

Reichley, James, *The Life of the Parties*, chapter 18 "The New Giants: National Party Organizations."

Recommended Reading:

Sundquist, James L. 1983. *Dynamics of the Party System: Alignment and Realignment of Political Parties in the United States*, chapter 18.

Glaser, James M. 1996. *Race, Campaign Politics and the Realignment in the South*, chapters 1 and 6.

Bartels, Larry M. 2000. "Partisanship and Voting Behavior, 1952-1996." *APSR* 94: 35-50. OBTAIN VIA JSTOR ON MANSFIELD LIBRARY WEBSITE

Carmines, Edward G., and James A. Stimson. 1989. *Issue Evolution: Race and the Transformation of American Politics*, chapters 1 & 2.

February 14

Participation

Downs, Anthony. 1957. "The Causes and Effects of Rational Abstention." Chapter 14 in *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, pp. 260-76.

Conway, M. Margaret. 2000. "Social Characteristics and Patterns of Political Participation." Chapter 2 in *Political Participation in the United States*.

Brady, Henry E. Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation," *American Political Science Review* 89: 271-294.

McDonald, Michael P. and Samuel Popkin. 2001. "The Myth of the Vanishing Voter," *American Political Science Review* 95: 963-974.

Rosenstone, Steven J., and John Mark Hansen. 1993. "Participation in American Politics, 1952-1990" and "Participation in Governmental Politics." Chapters 3 & 4 in *Mobilization, Participation and Democracy in America*.

Highton, Benjamin. 1997. "Easy Registration and Voter Turnout," *Journal of Politics*: 565-75.

Meyer, David S. 2007. "The Policy Connection: How Movements Matter." Chapter 9 in *The Politics of Protest: Social Movements in America*.

February 14 Participation (continued)

Rimmerman, Craig A. 1998. Chapters 1, 4, and 5 in *The New Citizenship: Unconventional Politics, Activism, and Service*.

Recommended Reading:

Knack, Stephen. 1995. "Does 'Motor Voter' Work? Evidence from State-Level Data," *Journal of Politics* 57: 796-811.

Timpona, Richard J. 1998. "Structure, Behavior, and Voter Turnout in the United States," *American Political Science Review* 92: 145-58.

February 21 Campaigns and Elections

Polsby and Wildavsky, *Presidential Elections*, Chapters 3-5, pp. 51-218. (this is the classic book on elections used in grad courses, which is why I'm having you read so much of it, but it's well written and gives us a strong focus for the discussion)

Jacobson, Gary C. 1997. "Congressional Candidates." Chapter 3 in *The Politics of Congressional Elections*, 4th ed., pp. 19-51.

Green, John C. 2006. "Money and Elections." Chapter 4 in Stephen C. Craig (ed.) *The Electoral Challenge: Theory Meets Practice*, pp. 58-77.

Downs, Anthony. 1957. "The Basic Logic of Voting." Chapter 3 in *An Economic Theory of Democracy*, 36-50.

February 28 Electoral Structures, Representation, and Civil Rights

Butler, David, and Bruce Cain. 1992. "Redistricting: 1790 to 1990," "Building Blocks," and "Values and Tradeoffs." Chapters 2-4 in *Congressional Redistricting*, pp. 17-90.

Lublin, David. 1997. "The Election of African Americans and Latinos to the U.S. House of Representatives, 1972-1994." *American Politics Quarterly* 25: 269-286.

Canon, David T. 1999. "Black Majority Districts: Failed Experiment or Catalyst for a Politics of Commonality?" Chapter 6 in *Race, Redistricting, and Representation*, pp. 243-264.

Cain, Bruce E. 1992. "Voting Rights and Democratic Theory: Toward a Color-Blind Society?" and responses by Luis R. Fraga, Lani Guinier, Carol M. Swain, and James P. Turner. In *Controversies in Minority Voting*, Bernard Grofman and Chandler Davidson, eds., pp 261-299.

March 6 Political Communication and the News Media

Cook, Timothy E. 1998. "The Political News Media." Chapter 5 in *Governing with the News: The News Media as a Political Institution*, pp. 85-115.

Iyengar, Shanto, and Jennifer A. McGrady. 2007. "Reporters, Official Sources, and the Decline of Adversarial Journalism." Chapter 4 in *Media Politics: A Citizen's Guide*, pp 85-105.

Patterson, Thomas E. 1994. "The Miscast Institution." Chapter 1 in *Out of Order*, pp. 28-52.

Gilliam, Jr., Franklin D., and Shanto Iyengar. 2000. "Prime Suspects: The Influence of Local Television News on the Viewing Public." *American Journal of Political Science* 44: 560-573.

Iyengar, Shanto, and Adam Simon. 1993. "News Coverage of the Gulf Crisis and Public Opinion: A Study of Agenda-Setting, Priming, and Framing." *Communication Research* 20: 365-383.

Just, Marion R., et al. 1996. "The Logic of Considerations and the Vote." Chapter 9 in *Crosstalk: Citizens, Candidates, and the Media in a Presidential Campaign*, pp. 204-230.

Lupia, Arthur. 1994. "Shortcuts Versus Encyclopedias: Information and Voting Behavior in California Insurance Reform Elections." *American Political Science Review* 88: 63-75.

Recommended:

Hetherington, Marc J. 1996. "The Media's Role in Forming Voters' National Economic Evaluations in 1992." *American Journal of Political Science* 40: 372-95. AVAILABLE VIA JSTOR.

Ansolabehere, Stephen, and Shanto Iyengar. 1995. "The Withdrawal of the Voter," Chapter 5 in *Going Negative*, pp. 99-114.

March 13 Public Opinion

- Miller, Warren E., and J. Merrill Shanks. 1996. "Multiple Stage Explanations of Political Preferences." Chapter 8 in *The New American Voter*, pp. 189-211.
- Erikson, Robert S., and Kent L. Tedin. 2008. "Polling: The Scientific Assessment of Public Opinion," Chapter 2, pp. 24-57, "Microlevel Opinion: The Psychology of Opinion-Holding," chapter 3, pp. 58-91, "Public Opinion and Democratic Stability" Chapter 6, pp. 162-190. In *American Public Opinion*, updated 7th ed.
- Zaller, John S. 1992. "Information, Predispositions, and Opinion," Chapter 2, pp. 6-39, "How Citizens Acquire Information and Convert It into Public Opinion," Chapter 3, pp. 40-52, "The Mainstream and Polarization Effects," Chapter 6, pp. 57-117. In *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*.

March 20 Civic Engagement

- Almond, Gabriel A., and Sidney Verba. 1963. "An Approach to Political Culture." Chapter 1 in *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*, pp. 3-36 only.
- Putnam, Robert D. 2000. *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*.
"Thinking About Social Change" (Chapter 1),
"Political Participation" (chap. 2),
"What Killed Civic Engagement" (chap. 15),
"Introduction" to Section 4 (chap. 16),
"Democracy" (chap. 21) and
"The Dark Side of Social Capital" (chap. 22).
- Hibbing, John R., and Elizabeth Theiss-Morse. 2002. "Using Process Space to Explain Features of American Politics" chapter 3, and "Americans' Desire for Stealth Democracy," chapter 6 in *Stealth Democracy: Americans' Beliefs about How Government Should Work*.
- Burns, Nancy, Kay Lehman Schlozman, and Sidney Verba. 2001. "Gender, Institutions, and Political Participation." Chapter 10 in *The Private Roots of Public Action*, pp. 246- 273.
- Schlozman, Kay Lehman, Sidney Verba, and Henry E. Brady. 1999. "Civic Participation and the Equality Problem," chapter 12 in *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*, pp 427-461.

March 27 No Class Due to Spring Break

April 3 Interest Groups

review *Federalist Paper #10*

- Hall, Richard, & Frank Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *American Political Science Review* 84:797-820.
- Lowery, David, and Virginia Gray. 1995. "The Population Ecology of Gucci Gulch, or the National Regulation of Interest Group Numbers in the American States." *American Journal of Political Science* 39:1-29.
- Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*. chapters 1 & 2.
- Walker, Jack L. 1983. "The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America." *APSR* 77:390-406.

April 10 Congress

- Fiorina, Morris. 1977. *Congress - Keystone of the Washington Establishment*. Chapters 5, 7, and 8.
- Fenno, Richard F., Jr. 1982. "The Senate in Bicameral Perspective." Reprinted as Chapter 6-1 in Kernell and Smith (2000), *Principles and Practices of American Politics*.
- Rohde, David. 2005. "Committees and Policy Formulation." Chapter 7 in Quirk and Binder, *The Legislative Branch*.
- Mayhew, David. 2005. "Conclusion" and "Epilogue: The Record During 1991-2002." Chapters 7 and 8 in *Divided We Govern*.
- Polsby, Nelson W. 2004. "Causes of Liberalization." Chapter 3 in *How Congress Evolves*.
- Quirk, Paul J. 2005. "Deliberation and Decision Making." Chapter 11 in Quirk and Binder, *The Legislative Branch*.

April 17 The Presidency

- Neustadt, Richard E. 1990. "Leader or Clerk" and "The Power to Persuade." Chapters 1 and 3 in *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*, pp. 3-9, 29-49.
- Kernell, Samuel. 1997. "Introduction: Going Public in Theory and Practice," "How Washington and Presidents Have Changed," and "Conclusion: The Prospects for Leadership." Chapters 1, 2 (part) and 8 in *Going Public: New Strategies in Presidential Leadership*, pp. 1-38, 56-64, 248-267.
- Skowronek, Stephen. 1997. "Power and Authority" and "Structure and Action." Chapters 2 and 3 in *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to Bill Clinton*, pp. 17-58.
- Greenstein, Fred I. 2005. "The Person of the President, Leadership, and Greatness." Chapter 7 in Joel D. Aberbach and Mark A. Peterson, eds., *The Executive Branch*, pp. 218-240.
- Crenson, Matthew W. and Benjamin Ginsberg. 2007. "From Republican Government to Presidentialism." Chapter 1 in *Presidential Power*, pp. 15-41.

April 24 The Judiciary

- Hamilton, Alexander. 1787. "A View of the Constitution of the Judicial Department." Federalist Paper 78.
- Baum, Lawrence. 2003. "The Supreme Court in American Politics." *Annual Review of Political Science* 6: 161-180.
- Baum, Lawrence. 1995. "Measuring policy change in the Rehnquist Court." *American Politics Quarterly* 82: 373-382.
- Toobin, Jeffrey. 2007. "Phanatics?" and "Epilogue." In *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*, pp. 323-340.
- Kagan, Robert A. 1991. "Adversarial Legalism and American Government." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 10: 369-406.

May 1 Policy and Bureaucracy

- Wilson, James Q. 1975. "The Rise of the Bureaucratic State." *Public Interest* 41:77-103.
- Wilson, James Q. 1989. "Constraints" and "Problems." Chapters 7 and 17 in *Bureaucracy: What Governments Do and Why They Do It*, pp. 113-136 and 315-332.
- Lindblom, Charles E. 1959. "The Science of Muddling Through." *Public Administration Review*, 19: 79-88.
- Goodsell, Charles. 2004. "Fads and Fundamentals of Bureaucracy." Chapter 7 in *The Case for Bureaucracy: A Public Administration Polemic*, pp. 139-161.
- Brady, David W. and Craig Volden, 2006. "Revolving Gridlock and Budgetary Politics." Chapter 3 in *Revolving Gridlock: Politics and Policy from Jimmy Carter to George W. Bush*, pp. 49-78.
- Scruton, Roger. 2001. "What is Acceptable Risk?" *City Journal* 11, and Aizenman, Zurith C. 1997. "The Case for More Regulation." *The Washington Monthly* 9. Reprinted as chapters 72-73 in Canon et al., eds., *The Enduring Debate*, 5th ed., pp. 566-582.

Supplemental Readings:

- Light, Paul C. 1997. "The Tides of Reform." Chapter 1 in *The Tides of Reform*, pp. 15-43.
- Brady, David W. and Craig Volden, 2006. "Theoretical Foundations." Chapter 2 in *Revolving Gridlock: Politics and Policy from Jimmy Carter to George W. Bush*, pp. 12-48.
- Kernell, Samuel. 2001. "Rural Free Delivery as a Critical Test of Alternative Models of American Political Development." *Studies in American Political Development* 15:103-12.

May 8 Research Paper Presentations and Discussion of MA Exam